

Notice of New Sample: The data in this report are based on a new sample and reflect the results from the latest Census of Retail Trade and the 1999 Annual Retail Trade Survey. This initial release, and all subsequent releases, uses the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) in place of the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) system. Previously, on June 1, the unadjusted and adjusted data series from January 1992 through April 2001 were published on a NAICS basis and can be found on our website at <http://www.census.gov/mrts/www/mrts.html>.

FOR WIRE TRANSMISSION 8:30 A.M. ET, Wednesday, June 13, 2001.

**ADVANCE MONTHLY SALES FOR RETAIL AND FOOD SERVICES
MAY 2001**

The Census Bureau of the Department of Commerce announced today that advance estimates of U.S. retail and food services sales for May, adjusted for seasonal, holiday, and trading-day differences, but not for price changes, were \$291.3 billion, an increase of 0.1 percent ($\pm 1.0\%$) from the previous month and up 3.8 percent ($\pm 1.7\%$) from May 2000. Total sales for the March through May period were up 3.0 percent ($\pm 1.5\%$) from the same period a year ago. The March to April 2001 percent change was revised from 1.1 percent ($\pm 1.0\%$) to 1.4 percent ($\pm 0.3\%$).

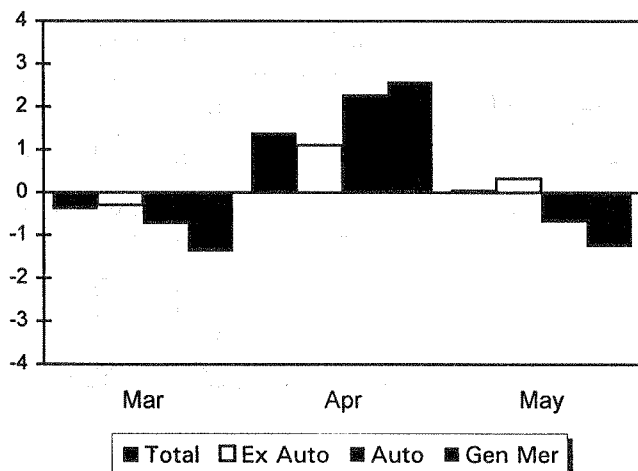
Retail trade sales were virtually unchanged from April, but were 3.6 percent ($\pm 1.7\%$) above last year. Health and personal care stores were up 8.5 percent ($\pm 3.6\%$) from last year and sales of building materials and garden equipment and supplies dealers increased 7.4 percent ($\pm 5.9\%$) from May a year ago. Gasoline stations were 6.8 percent ($\pm 4.8\%$) above May 2000 and motor vehicle and parts dealers were up 3.4 percent ($\pm 3.5\%$) from last year.

The advance estimates are based on a small subsample of the Bureau's full retail and food services sample. Estimates from the advance and the subsequent full survey can differ because of the earlier reporting in the advance and because of sampling variability present in both surveys.

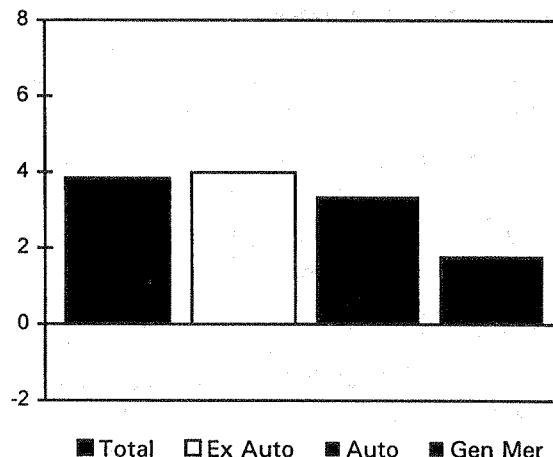
Percent Change in Retail and Food Services Sales

(Data adjusted for seasonal, holiday, and trading-day differences, but not for price changes)

From Previous Month



From Previous Year



The Advance Monthly Sales for Retail and Food Services for June is scheduled to be released July 13, 2001 at 8:30 a.m.

Address inquiries concerning this report to Scott Scheleur, Service Sector Statistics Division, U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, DC 20233. Telephone: 301-457-2713 or 301-457-2666.

This report is available the day of issue through the Department of Commerce's online Economic Bulletin Board. For information call 202-482-1986. The data are also available on the Internet - <http://www.census.gov/svsd/www/advtable.html>.

Table 1. Estimated Advance Monthly Sales for Retail and Food Services, by Kind of Business

(In Millions of Dollars and Annual Percent Change)

NAICS code	Kind of Business	Not Adjusted						Adjusted ¹					
		5 month total		2001			2000		2001			2000	
		2001	% Chg. 2000	May ² (a)	Apr. (p)	Mar. (r)	May	Apr.	May ² (a)	Apr. (p)	Mar. (r)	May (r)	Apr. (r)
	Retail & food services,												
	total	1,394,385	3.1	305,606	284,549	290,332	292,934	272,659	291,306	291,090	287,102	280,547	279,961
	Total (excl. motor vehicle & parts) ...	1,038,268	3.7	227,038	212,475	213,877	217,009	204,252	220,625	219,917	217,525	212,168	211,494
	Retail	1,264,655	3.0	277,631	258,257	263,054	266,678	247,183	264,587	264,639	260,695	255,325	254,612
	GAFO ³	(*)	(*)	(*)	68,972	69,364	70,994	67,396	(*)	74,736	73,822	73,214	72,718
441	Motor vehicle & parts dealers	356,117	1.3	78,568	72,074	76,455	75,925	68,407	70,681	71,173	69,577	68,379	68,467
4411, 4412	Auto & other motor veh. dealers ..	326,423	1.5	71,924	68,001	70,251	69,470	62,479	64,506	65,026	63,518	62,249	62,479
44111	New car dealers	(*)	(*)	(*)	55,332	59,966	59,467	53,350	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
4413	Auto parts, acc. & tire stores.....	(*)	(*)	(*)	6,073	6,204	6,455	5,928	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
442	Furniture & home furn. stores	36,192	-0.1	7,668	7,022	7,621	7,691	7,181	7,691	7,600	7,613	7,745	7,722
4421	Furniture stores	(*)	(*)	(*)	3,814	4,250	4,191	3,973	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
4422	Home furnishings stores	(*)	(*)	(*)	3,208	3,371	3,500	3,208	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
443	Electronics & appliance stores	32,978	-3.7	6,539	6,108	6,923	6,771	6,468	7,027	7,034	7,079	7,306	7,384
44311	Appl., T.V. & camera.....	(*)	(*)	(*)	4,225	4,739	4,597	4,298	(*)	5,024	5,036	5,008	5,056
44312	Computer & software stores.....	(*)	(*)	(*)	1,883	2,184	2,174	2,170	(*)	2,010	2,043	2,298	2,328
444	Building material & garden eq. & supplies dealers	119,067	4.9	29,819	26,778	23,710	27,558	23,996	24,825	24,986	24,179	23,112	22,886
4441	Building mat. & sup. dealers	(*)	(*)	(*)	22,135	20,139	22,882	20,109	(*)	21,469	20,848	20,072	19,910
445	Food & beverage stores	193,226	3.9	41,203	38,484	39,757	39,464	38,033	39,974	39,719	39,723	38,646	38,741
4451	Grocery stores	175,693	3.6	37,323	34,881	36,137	35,832	34,628	36,166	35,960	35,921	35,061	35,227
4453	Beer, wine & liquor stores	(*)	(*)	(*)	2,282	2,365	2,376	2,151	(*)	2,483	2,471	2,367	2,305
446	Health & personal care stores	69,702	9.0	14,603	13,855	14,363	13,489	12,667	14,219	14,066	14,081	13,109	12,965
44611	Pharmacies & drug stores	(*)	(*)	(*)	11,860	12,235	11,392	10,711	(*)	12,028	12,066	11,103	10,930
447	Gasoline stations	99,518	3.4	22,266	20,522	19,741	20,884	19,471	21,226	20,941	20,103	19,871	20,032
448	Clothing & clothing accessories stores	62,657	3.6	14,109	13,520	13,242	13,783	13,162	14,253	14,404	14,319	13,991	13,885
44811	Men's clothing stores	(*)	(*)	(*)	821	810	853	837	(*)	885	898	889	887
44812	Women's clothing stores	(*)	(*)	(*)	2,876	2,744	2,883	2,777	(*)	2,757	2,744	2,689	2,645
44814	Family clothing stores	(*)	(*)	(*)	4,563	4,391	4,403	4,357	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
4482	Shoe stores	(*)	(*)	(*)	1,949	1,801	1,897	1,938	(*)	1,856	1,817	1,828	1,828
451	Sporting goods, hobby, book & music stores	31,218	8.8	6,664	6,102	6,559	6,114	5,802	7,173	7,068	7,061	6,685	6,638
452	General merchandise stores	154,032	2.9	34,229	33,054	31,537	33,420	31,638	34,575	35,015	34,131	33,963	33,444
4521	Department stores (ex. L.D.).....	86,546	0.3	18,992	18,856	17,790	19,281	18,424	19,499	19,957	19,463	19,832	19,485
4521	Department stores (incl. L.D.).....	(*)	(*)	(*)	19,227	18,143	19,707	18,838	(*)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
4529	Other general merch. stores.....	(*)	(*)	(*)	14,198	13,747	14,139	13,214	(*)	15,058	14,668	14,131	13,959
45291	Warehouse clubs & superstores	(*)	(*)	(*)	11,200	10,892	11,342	10,611	(*)	11,902	11,637	11,342	11,205
45299	All oth. gen. merch. stores.....	(*)	(*)	(*)	2,998	2,855	2,797	2,603	(*)	3,156	3,031	2,789	2,754
453	Miscellaneous store retailers	44,366	1.4	9,870	8,597	9,215	9,138	8,420	9,518	9,271	9,380	8,979	9,161
454	Nonstore retailers	65,582	2.2	12,093	12,141	13,931	12,441	11,938	13,425	13,362	13,449	13,539	13,287
4541	Elect. shopping & m/o houses ...	(*)	(*)	(*)	8,304	9,125	8,469	8,213	(*)	9,125	9,107	9,166	9,177
722	Food services & drinking places ...	129,730	4.5	27,975	26,292	27,278	26,256	25,476	26,719	26,451	26,407	25,222	25,349

(*) Advance estimates are not available from the subsample panel for these business classifications.

(NA) Not available. (a) Advance estimates. (p) Preliminary. (r) Revised.

Note: Totals include data for business classifications not shown separately.

(1) Data are concurrently adjusted for seasonal variations, holiday, and trading-day differences, but not for price changes. Concurrent seasonal adjustment uses all available unadjusted estimates as input to the X-12-ARIMA program and the factors derived from the program are used in calculating all seasonally adjusted data shown in this publication. Factors and explanatory material are released on the Internet at <http://www.census.gov/mrts/www/mrts.html>.

(2) Advance estimates are based on early reporting by a small subsample of the full survey panel. All other estimates are based on the full sample.

(3) GAFO represents stores which specialize in department store types of merchandise (furniture & home furnishings (442), electronics & appliances(443), clothing & accessories(448), sporting goods, hobby, book, music (451), general merchandise(452), office supplies, stationary, and gift stores(4532)).

(4) Includes data for leased departments operated within department stores. Data for this line not included in broader kind-of-business totals.

Table 2. Percent Change in Estimated Advance Monthly Sales for Retail and Food Services, by Kind of Business

(Adjusted for seasonal variations, holiday, and trading-day differences, but not for price changes)

NAICS code	Kind of Business	Percent Change ¹					
		May 2001 Advance from --		Apr. 2001 Preliminary from --		Mar. 2001 through May 2001 from --	
		Apr. 2001 (p)	May 2000 (r)	Mar. 2001 (r)	Apr. 2000 (r)	Dec. 2000 through Feb. 2001	Mar. 2000 through May 2000
	Retail & food services,						
	total	0.1	3.8	1.4	4.0	1.1	3.0
	Total (excl. motor vehicle & parts)	0.3	4.0	1.1	4.0	1.1	3.3
	Retail	0.0	3.6	1.5	3.9	1.1	2.9
441	Motor vehicle & parts dealers	-0.7	3.4	2.3	4.0	1.2	2.2
4411, 4412	Auto & other motor veh. dealers	-0.8	3.6	2.4	4.1	1.3	2.4
442	Furniture & home furn. stores	1.2	-0.7	-0.2	-1.6	1.0	-1.0
443	Electronics & appliance stores	-0.1	-3.8	-0.6	-4.7	-1.9	-3.9
444	Building material & garden eq. & supplies dealers	-0.6	7.4	3.3	9.2	4.3	5.4
445	Food & beverage stores	0.6	3.4	0.0	2.5	0.4	3.3
4451	Grocery stores	0.6	3.2	0.1	2.1	0.4	2.9
446	Health & personal care stores	1.1	8.5	-0.1	8.5	2.3	8.8
447	Gasoline stations	1.4	6.8	4.2	4.5	1.5	2.7
448	Clothing & clothing accessories stores	-1.0	1.9	0.6	3.7	-0.9	2.5
451	Sporting goods, hobby, book & music stores	1.5	7.3	0.1	6.5	3.0	7.1
452	General merchandise stores	-1.3	1.8	2.6	4.7	0.1	2.3
4521	Department stores (ex. L.D.).....	-2.3	-1.7	2.5	2.4	-1.4	-0.4
453	Miscellaneous store retailers	2.7	6.0	-1.2	1.2	5.1	3.4
454	Nonstore retailers	0.5	-0.8	-0.6	0.6	-2.8	0.4
722	Food services & drinking places	1.0	5.9	0.2	4.3	1.3	4.9

(p) Preliminary. (r) Revised.

(1) Percent change rounded to nearest tenth.

Official Business

Penalty for Private Use, \$300

Reliability of Estimates

The Advance estimates are based on a small subsample of the Bureau's full retail sales sample. Estimates from the Advance and the subsequent full survey can differ because of the earlier reporting in the Advance and because of sampling variability present in each survey. The margin of sampling error, as used on page 1, gives a range about the estimate which is a 90% confidence interval. If, for example, the trend estimate is +1.2% and the standard error is 0.9%, then the margin of sampling error is $\pm 1.65 \times 0.9\%$ or $\pm 1.5\%$, and the 90% confidence interval is -0.3% to +2.7%. If the interval contains 0, it is uncertain whether there was an increase or decrease. For monthly level, the coefficient of variation (CV) is given. The resulting confidence interval is the estimated value $\pm 1.65 \times CV \times$ (the estimated value). Estimates of sampling variability are given in Table 3.

coverage of the universe of retail businesses, and response errors. Additionally, estimates of sales prior to March 2001 have been restated from SIC-based estimates. The restatement methodology may have introduced additional nonsampling error. Precautionary steps are taken to minimize nonsampling errors, but their magnitude is not directly measured.

Preliminary estimates for the current month and final estimates for the previous month based on the full sample will be published next month in the Monthly Retail Trade Report. This report will provide sales estimates in greater detail and additional measures of sampling variability. It will also present a description of revisions, the techniques used in developing the estimates, and an explanation of confidence intervals and sampling variability (Appendix B, Reliability of Estimates).

Estimates from the Advance and the full survey are subject to nonsampling errors. Such errors can occur because of nonresponse, insufficient

Table 3. Measures of Variability of and Revision to Advance Estimates for Level and Trend

NAICS Code	Kind of Business	Level of sales: Median CV ⁽²⁾ for Current Mo. (%)	Trend (percent change): Median standard error ⁽²⁾ for			Revision for month- to-month change ⁽¹⁾	
			Current Mo. to Previous Mo.	Current Qtr. to Previous Qtr.	Current Mo. to Current Mo. Last Yr.	Average revision	Median absolute revision
	Retail & food services,						
	total	0.8	0.6	0.9	1.0	0.1	0.2
	Total (excl. motor vehicle & parts) ..	0.9	0.6	1.0	1.0	0.1	0.2
	Retail	0.9	0.6	0.9	1.0	0.2	0.2
441	Motor vehicle & parts dealers	1.8	1.5	1.7	2.1	0.3	0.4
4411, 4412	Auto & other motor veh. dealers ..	1.9	1.6	1.8	2.3	0.2	0.4
442	Furniture & home furn. stores.....	4.1	2.0	4.9	5.0	0.5	0.5
443	Electronics & appliance stores	1.3	0.8	1.7	1.6	-0.2	0.2
444	Building material & garden eq. &... supplies dealers.....	3.1	2.1	3.4	3.6	0.2	0.8
445	Food & beverage stores.....	0.7	0.4	0.8	0.8	0.1	0.3
4451	Grocery stores	0.8	0.2	0.9	0.9	0.1	0.2
446	Health & personal care stores	2.1	0.4	2.2	2.2	0.2	0.5
447	Gasoline stations	2.4	1.5	2.7	2.9	0.0	0.6
448	Clothing & clothing accessories stores	1.8	1.3	2.2	2.1	0.0	0.6
451	Sporting goods, hobby, book & music stores.....	2.7	1.4	3.7	3.1	0.1	0.1
452	General merchandise stores.....	0.3	0.1	0.3	0.3	-0.1	0.4
4521	Department stores (ex. L.D.).....	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-0.2	0.4
453	Miscellaneous store retailers	7.0	4.8	8.1	11.9	-0.2	0.2
454	Nonstore retailers	4.8	2.5	6.2	5.7	-0.8	0.8
722	Food services & drinking places ...	2.4	1.5	2.4	2.8	0.3	0.5



(1) These columns measure the difference between the estimates of trend for the same pair of data months, i.e. the difference between the Advance/Preliminary ratio and the Preliminary/Final ratio estimates. These revisions combine data from the SIC-based and NAICS-based samples.

(2) Medians are based on the period February 2001 to present.